



# Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

**JULY 2006**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

*Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at [smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov).*

## Help Support YOUR Newsletter

The purpose of Litter Picks is to help people interested in litter issues throughout the Commonwealth know what is going on in different regions. Folks, this is YOUR newsletter! Please share your ideas and events with us so that we can put them in the newsletters for others to read about. Would you like for Litter Picks to be continued or shall we stop producing it? Please give us some feedback. Call Sheila Barnett at (804) 698-4055 or Steve Coe at (804) 698-4029 or email us at [smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov) or [gscocoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscocoe@deq.virginia.gov) and let

## Vandals Given a Chance to Clean up Their Mess

The **City of Richmond** invited vandals to come to a meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to give vandals an opportunity to identify their tags throughout the city and sign an agreement to clean up their messes and avoid prosecution. This meeting was a one-shot amnesty deal for vandals. Two young men came to the meeting, but did not share any information about themselves or their tags. The two did not participate by the deadline.

The City of Richmond has gotten serious about graffiti. In the past four months the commonwealth's attorney has won five convictions against vandals who have spent up to 90 days in jail.

For more information contact the Richmond Clean City Commission, Billie Raines at (804) 646-6785 or [braines@ci.richmond.va.us](mailto:braines@ci.richmond.va.us)

## James River Clean Up Report Includes Trash and Recyclables Collected

The 2006 James River Regional Cleanup, was sponsored by the James River Advisory Council, reported that more than 860 volunteers picked up 408 bags of trash and 207 bags of recyclable materials including plastic, aluminum and glass on Saturday, June 10, 2006. Volunteers met in **Chesterfield, Henrico, Charles City, Powhatan, Goochland, and Charles City** Counties as well as in the Cities of **Richmond** and **Lynchburg**. For more information visit the James River Advisory Council web site at [www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com](http://www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com)

## Did You Know?

- ✓ The performance and accounting reports are needed in order for localities to qualify for the litter prevention and recycling grants. Performance and Accounting Reports must be postmarked by **August 31, 2006**. To download a performance and accounting form, go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/forms.html>
- ✓ The National Conservation Award was presented to Allan Lassiter of DEQ's Environmental Enhancement Program by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to recognize Mr. Lassiter for his work in recycling, litter prevention, and scrap tire management and pile remediation in Southside Virginia. Contact Allan Lassiter at (804) 698-4215 or [arlassiter@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:arlassiter@deq.virginia.gov)
- ✓ **Virginia Beach** held an Earth Day Celebration on May 7 at Mt. Trashmore. They had approximately 12,000 visitors and 57 exhibitors and 3 stages with entertainment. Contact Ruby Arredondo at (757) 385-4104 or [rarredon@vbgo.com](mailto:rarredon@vbgo.com)
- ✓ Keep **Henrico** Beautiful held their annual Land Lover and Clean Business Awards Ceremony on June 27, 2006. KHB honors one outstanding homeowner and one business for their lawn care, landscaping, litter removal and recycling efforts. Megan Brown (804) 501-4502 or [bro77@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:bro77@co.henrico.va.us)
- ✓ Governor Tim Kaine joined over 60 other governors and mayors in issuing a proclamation in support of National Clean Beaches week which was held June 29 – July 5, 2006. The goal of National Clean Beaches Week is to encourage public responsibility in keeping beaches clean and promoting environmental awareness in these coastal areas. For more information about National Clean Beaches week go to: [www.cleanbeaches.org](http://www.cleanbeaches.org). To read the Governor's proclamation, go to: <http://www.cleanbeaches.org/ewebeditpro/items/O31F8355.pdf>

## Thank you Virginia Beach!

We received a copy of a newsletter from the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission called the Litter Bits Newsletter. It contained information about events they have held and upcoming events. The newsletter contains information about their Earth Day Event, Clean the Bay Day, Helping Hands Program, Adopt-a-Program Opportunities, Storm Drain Marker Program, and the Shopping Cart Initiative. We will be featuring additional stories from Virginia Beach as they come in.

## Litter Picks Continued

### What Is In Litter? Washington State Conducts a Study to Determine What is in Roadside Litter and if Litter Campaigns Help to Reduce Trash

The Washington State Department of Ecology and the Cascadia consultant team designed a litter study to compare litter generation in Washington. The analysis was done in 1999 and again in 2004. The purpose of the litter studies was to help the Department of Ecology determine if their litter reduction efforts have been effective. The results indicate that litter generation between 1999 and 2004 has been on a slight decline.

The sections of road that were sampled in 1999 and 2004 were the same stretches of road so that the results would be comparable. The sites were chosen at random to avoid any bias. Before the study began, the Ecology Youth Litter Corps cleaned up the trash in 2003 at the sites that were to be used in the study.

The top ten largest components by weight of litter found along all roadways, including interstates, state routes and country roads is compiled in the table below and includes the percentages by weight of what was sampled:

	1999	2004
Glass Beverage Containers	19.4%	11.9%
Other Organics	12.2%	9.8%
Wood/Lumber/Particleboard	12.4%	8.2%
Other Metals/Composite Materials	5.9%	7.4%
Other Plastics/Composite Materials	2.8%	6.9%
Tires/Auto Rubber Products	8.5%	6.4%
Metal Automotive Parts	3.2%	6.3%
Furniture/Mattresses/Appliances	---	5.2%
Metal Beverage Containers	3.3%	3.0%
Plastic Bags and Film	4.5%	2.9%
Other Cardboard/Boxboard	2.6%	---

Roadway litter consists primarily of waste originating from moving vehicles. It includes litter that drivers or passengers toss from vehicles, parts that have fallen off vehicles and debris from unsecured loads. Roadway litter generation was analyzed in three ways: total generation statewide, generation per mile, and generation per mile driven.

Litter on interchanges originates primarily from vehicles that are entering or exiting roadways. It also may represent litter discarded on overpasses or blown from the road shoulders. Two analyses were performed on interchange generation data: total generation, and per-interchange generation rates.

The estimated amount of litter on Washington roadways decreased from 8,322 tons in 1999 to 6,315 tons in 2004. The estimated amount of litter on interchanges in Washington decreased from 617 tons in 1999 to 433 tons in 2004. The statistical tests indicate that people are less likely to litter in the winter than they are in the summer. There was no significant decrease in litter accumulation on other types of roads in Washington.

This story is comprised from excerpts from the Washington 2004 State Litter Study. The contact information and the report can be viewed by going to:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0507029.html>

### Assign-a-Highway Provides FREE Labor

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) pays contractors to pick up litter along the roadways. Each contract may vary, but according to James Barrett of VDOT, if two people make \$10/hr and they pick up litter at ¼ mile per hour, the cost is \$80 per hour for two people to pick up one mile of road.

As an example of how valuable the Assign-a-Highway program can be to a locality let's look at Buchanan County. In 2005 Buchanan County assigned 536 miles to probationers to keep clean. Probationers are required to clean their stretch of road at least every two weeks which would equal 26 cleanings per year). 536 miles x 26 road cleanings per year x \$80 per mile for what VDOT might pay a contractor made the value of the Assign-a-Highway program in Buchanan County in 2005 worth at least \$1,114,880 for one year of free labor from the Assign-a-Highway program. Contact James Barrett for information about VDOT's litter contracts at (804) 662-9389 or

[James.Barrett@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:James.Barrett@vdot.virginia.gov)

For information about how to implement the Assign-a-Highway program in your locality, contact Bobby Justus at (276) 628-1600 or [bjustus\\_assignahighway@yahoo.com](mailto:bjustus_assignahighway@yahoo.com)

### Kicking Butt in Norfolk

On July 6, 2006, **Norfolk's** Keep America Beautiful and the Bank of America will implement another strategy to reduce the amount of cigarette butts that are discarded in the park on Commercial Place located directly across from the Bank of America.

Bank of America employees will visit with park patrons to discuss disposal options of their cigarette butts. They will be directed to put their butts in the new receptacles and pocket ashtrays will be given to smokers. When people are observed doing the right thing with their waste, they will receive special prize giveaways.

According to Carrie Gallagher Sussman, Director of the Keep America Beautiful Program, Norfolk has an exemplary anti-litter program because they involve the community and local businesses in local problem solving issues. Holly Carson (757) 441-1347 or [holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov)

### Clean the Bay Day

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean the Bay Day was held on Saturday, June 10, 2006. **Norfolk** reported that 947 volunteers across Hampton Roads cleaned up 43,220 pounds of debris along 33.9 miles of shoreline. Holly Carson (757) 441-1347 or [holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov).

**Virginia Beach** reported that they had 2,225 Clean the Bay Day volunteers who cleaned up 212 miles of beach and picked up 78,487 pounds of debris.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation reported a total of 4,700 volunteers who cleaned up 310 miles and collected 170,313 pounds of debris.  
[http://www.vbgov.com/dept/parks/clean\\_community/0.1430,2358.00.html](http://www.vbgov.com/dept/parks/clean_community/0.1430,2358.00.html)

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